

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation Statement
to
Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
September 20, 2007**

Chairwoman Campbell, members of the Board, I am Ann Jennings Virginia Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. CBF participated as a member of both the MS4 General Permit and Stormwater Regulations Technical Advisory Committees. Before the members of my staff provide specific comments today and tomorrow on the draft regulations I wish to say a few words regarding the significance of your decisions today and in the coming year with regard to stormwater management and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

As you are certainly aware, Virginia – along with Maryland, Pennsylvania and DC – committed in 2000 to restore the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries by reducing nutrient pollution. A recent report by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation documented continued algal blooms, dead zones, and fish kills throughout the Bay watershed this summer. There is much that needs to be done.

Yet, Virginia has already taken important steps to reduce nutrient pollution by implementing and funding landmark regulations that will result in significant reductions of nutrients from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities.

With adequate funding and staffing, CBF believes your Agricultural Cost Share BMP Program will play an instrumental role in reducing nutrient inputs from farmland runoff. CBF has joined with a coalition of agriculture and environmental groups asking Governor Kaine to fully fund and staff the agriculture bmp program. I will leave the Board copies of the coalition letter for your information.

Stormwater – and thus, what you are doing today and in the coming year – is the third essential leg of the Bay restoration stool. Without strong controls on existing and new urban and suburban development, the steps Virginia has already taken cannot ensure a restored Bay.

According to a report released just this week by the EPA Inspector General, urban runoff pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed has increased 16% over a 20-

year period (1985-2005). With Virginia's population increasing by 100,000 persons each year, it is expected that stormwater pollution from development will only increase.

We know that there are improved models for land use planning and design that can reduce the amount of polluted discharges entering our waterways. An integral part of these models are the rules that govern how local governments, developers and citizens treat stormwater pollution.

Therefore, as these regulations move forward in the public comment process, we will continue to urge that you require the best available technology and practices to reduce runoff pollution.

We thank you for your dedication to this effort and we commend DCR staff for their herculean efforts in drafting these regulations in collaboration with members of the Technical Advisory Committees and other interested stakeholders. Thank you for your time.